I claim:

1. A heating element for igniting a pyrotechnic charge comprising a base body, a structured strip shaped resistance layer on said base body, and contact fields overlapping said resistance layer at ends thereof for applying a current pulse to the heating element, wherein the heating element has a mass of 1.0×10^{-9} kg to 4.0×10^{-9} kg, a specific resistance of 1×10^{-6} Ωm to 2×10^{-6} Ωm and a specific heat capacity of 100 W/(kg.K) to 400 W/(kg•K).

2. The heating element defined in claim 1 wherein the heating element has a cross sectional area of 3.5×10^{-10} m^2 to 7.0×10^{-10} m^2 .

3. The heating element defined in claim 1 wherein the resistance layer is composed of a sintered Ag/Pd resistance paste or a sintered Ag/Au/Pd resistance paste containing 30 to 50 mass% Ag and 35 to 50 mass % Pd, or a sintered Pt/W resistance paste containing 70 to 90 mass %% Pt and 5 to 20 mass% W.

4. The heating element defined in claim 1 wherein the base body is composed of a high-temperature-resistant glass or glass-ceramic or ceramic with a thermal conductivity of at most 2 W/(m•K).

5. The heating element defined in claim 1 wherein the base body is composed of a high-temperature-resistant glass or glass-ceramic or ceramic with a thermal conductivity of at most 3 W/(m•K) and a heat barrier is applied to said base body which is comprised of a glass or glass-ceramic layer of a thickness of 20 to 80 μm and a thermal conductivity of at most 1.5 W/(m•K).

6. The heating element defined in claim 1 wherein the contact fields are composed of sintered AgPd or AgPt thick-layer conductor pa ste with Pd or Pt proportions between 1 and 10 mass%.

7. The heating element defined in claim 1 wherein the heating element has a cross sectional area of 3.5×10^{-10} m^2 to 7.0×10^{-10} m^2, the resistance layer is composed of a sintered Ag/Pd resistance paste or a sintered Ag/Au/Pd resistance paste

containing 30 to 50 mass% Ag and 35 to 50 mass % Pd, or a sintered Pt/W resistance paste containing 70 to 90 mass %% Pt and 5 to 20 mass% W, the base body is composed of a high-temperature-resistant glass or glass-ceramic or ceramic with a thermal conductivity of at most 2 W/(m•K), and the contact fields are composed of sintered AgPd or AgPt thick-layer conductor paste with Pd or Pt proportions between 1 and 10 mass%.

8. The heating element defined in claim 1 wherein the heating element has a cross sectional area of 3.5×10^{-10} m^2 to 7.0×10^{-10} m^2, the resistance layer is composed of a sintered Ag/Pd resistance paste or a sintered Ag/Au/Pd resistance paste containing 30 to 50 mass% Ag and 35 to 50 mass % Pd, or a sintered Pt/W resistance paste containing 70 to 90 mass %% Pt and 5 to 20 mass% W, the base body is composed of a high-temperature-resistant glass or glass-ceramic or ceramic with a thermal conductivity of at most 3 W/(m•K) and a heat barrier is applied to said base body which is comprised of a glass or glass-ceramic layer of a thickness of 20 to 80 μm and a thermal conductivity of at most 1.5 W/(m•K), and the contact fields are composed of sintered AgPd or AgPt thick-layer conductor paste with Pd or Pt proportions between 1 and 10 mass%.

9. A method of making a heating element for igniting a pyrotechnic charge, comprising the steps of:

depositing a glass or glass ceramic on a base body to form a glass or glass ceramic layer;

applying to said glass or glass ceramic layer a resistance layer in the shape of a strip;

structuring said resistance layer with a programmable layer; and

applying to ends of said resistance layer respective contact fields enabling electrical excitation of the resulting heating element, said heating element having a mass of 1.0×10^{-9} kg to 4.0×10^{-9} kg, a specific resistance of 1×10^{-6} Ωm to 2×10^{-6} Ωm and a specific heat capacity of 100 W/(kg.K) to 400 W/(kg•K).

10. The method defined in claim 9 wherein said layer of glass or glass ceramic is applied to said base body by screen printing, is dried and sintered and these steps are repeated until said layer has a thickness ensuring the recited mass, specific resistance and heat capacity for said heating element.

11. The method defined in claim 10 wherein the resistance layer is produced by screen printing on said layer of glass or glass ceramic, followed by drying and sintering.

12. The method defined in claim 11 wherein said contact fields are applied by screen printing conductive paste overlappingly on said resistance layer, drying said conductive tape and sintering said conductive tape.

13. The method defined in claim 12 wherein after sintering of at least one of said layers or after structuring of said resistance layer by said layer, said heating element is subjected to an after-sintering at 800°C to 900°C peak temperature for 10 to 20 minutes to stabilize said heating element against high electrical and thermal loads.